*Text Book Committee.*

86.* **MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Text Book Committee is now in existence ;

(*b*) if the answer is in the negative, who does the work which used to be performed by that Committee ;

(*c*) whether there are books written or compiled by Inspectors of Schools and recommended by them for acceptance as text books ; and

(*d*) whether any such books have been prescribed as text books ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : (*a*) Both the English and Vernacular Text Book Committees have been abolished with effect from the 3rd December 1932.

(*b*) The work was done this year by the Department.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*) : With respect to part (*d*), may I know from the member which officer in the department is now doing the work of the Text Book Committee ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : The Director assisted by the Inspector of English Schools and the Inspector of Vernacular Schools.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*) : With respect to the books prescribed for this year, was the Inspector of Vernacular Schools one of the persons who recommended the acceptance of books ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes, he recommended the acceptance of books in Malayalam for the Vernacular Schools.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Were there books written by him ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Was the Director aware of the fact that some of the books recommended by the Inspector of Vernacular Schools were books written by himself ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Was the Director satisfied as to the approval of such books on the recommendation of the Inspector alone ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : As the same books were recommended by the Inspector of English Schools also for English schools I take it that the Director was satisfied.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Was it therefore upon the conjoint recommendation of both the Inspectors ?

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**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No, there was no joint consultation between them. The Inspector of English Schools recommended Malayalam books for English schools and the Inspector of Vernacular Schools recommended Malayalam books for Vernacular schools and it so happened that the books approved by the Inspector of Vernacular Schools were also recommended for the English Schools by the Inspector of English Schools.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*): Are the Government of opinion that the Inspector of English Schools is a competent authority to pronounce upon the merits of a Malayalam book to be approved as a text book?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, the member wants an answer on a matter of opinion.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*): I am just asking what exactly is the opinion of Government in that respect. The fact that a particular person holds an opinion is a fact.

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not think, Sir, I could be asked for an expression of opinion.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, I want a ruling from the Chair because the officer representing Government refuses to answer.

**PRESIDENT**: You must be satisfied with the answer given by him. It is not for me to decide what answer should be given by him.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*): He has not given any answer.

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Under Rule 11 (*d*), the member cannot ask me to give an expression of opinion.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*): In such cases I think the President should give a ruling. I am of opinion that it cannot be so held.

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, Rule 11 (*d*) of the Rules says that a question shall not ask for an expression of opinion.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, I am not asking for opinion in that respect.

**PRESIDENT**: When the President stands up to speak, members will please sit down.

The Director of Public Instruction is strictly correct. A certain amount of latitude has been allowed; and if he has no objection, I have no objection to his answering the question. On a strict reading of the Rules, the Director is perfectly entitled to refuse to answer the question.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether the Director still entertains any objection to answer the question?

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MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Well, Sir, the Inspector of English Schools took his degree with Malayalam as his second language. If that does not make him an authority on Malayalam books, there was nothing to prevent him from consulting authoritative people. Anyhow, the responsibility for making recommendations with regard to Malayalam books for English schools was thrown on the shoulders of the Inspector of English Schools.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Are the Government aware whether the Inspector of English Schools consulted any other person than himself in the matter of making his recommendations?

MR. C. V CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am afraid I will have to claim notice.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Are there books recommended by the Inspector of Vernacular schools and accepted by Government on his own recommendation for Vernacular schools?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Not on his own direct recommendation, but on his recommendation to the Director, the Director made recommendations which the Government accepted.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Was any recommendation made by the Inspector of Vernacular schools to the Director with respect to books for Vernacular schools?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes.

MR. P. K NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Do the Government proposes to continue the present system of consulting the Inspectors alone in the matter of prescribing text books?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Government have not made up their minds in this matter and they would rather wait for the recommendations of the Statham Committee before they take up the question of reforming the system of prescribing text books, which is in vogue at present.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): What was the reason which led the Government to discontinue the Text Book Committee as it was originally constituted?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Are there books written by the Inspector of English Schools prescribed as text books?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No.

MR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കു് സിലക്ഷനുചെയ്യുന്നതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു ചൻമന ജൂൺ ൧-൨൯- മലയാള മനോരമയിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധംചെയ്തിരുന്ന ലേഖനം ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റശ്രദ്ധയിൽ വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

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MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): ഇല്ല.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ഇപ്പോൾ ആറാം ഫാറത്തിലേക്ക് സിലക്ട് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ബ്ലക്ലിഷ് സ്പെല്ലിംഗ്സ് മിസ്റ്റെക്സ് കൂടിയുള്ളതായിട്ട് അറിയാമോ?

PRESIDENT: Is he asking about a particular book?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): He is asking about the spelling mistakes in a particular book.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Rural*): Sir, is it the position of Government that these Inspectors of English and Vernacular Schools are competent to prescribe text books for all the subjects for all the classes in the schools under their control?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum – Rural*): Then, may I know how the Government acted on the recommendations of these officers without consulting experts?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It was a special measure this year. Government have been considering for some time a reform of the system of prescribing text books. As a preliminary step towards the reform, they abolished the existing Text Book Committee.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Sir, is there any reason why the special measure should be so defective and objectionable?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): This is not a special measure but it is only a temporary measure before the reforms are effected.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know whether there is any reason why the temporary measure should be defective and objectionable?

PRESIDENT: That is your opinion, I think, Mr. Thanu Pillai.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I explain, Sir? The Director now says that it is the position of Government that the Inspectors of Vernacular and English Schools are not competent to prescribe text books and he also says that in the present instance this was adopted as a temporary measure. So, I put the question.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): As I explained, Government have been considering for some time the reform of the present system. They have not been able to make up their minds. Meanwhile, the prescription of text books became an urgent matter, and urgent and emergent measures had to be devised for the purpose. I can say that it is not the intention of Government to continue this arrangement as a permanent one.

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**MR. A.THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Sir, may I know whether this question was not engaging the attention of Government since the text books were prescribed for the last academic year, that is for one full year ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : It has been before Government. Meanwhile, the Statham Committee was appointed and the prescription of text books is one of the terms of reference before the Committee and therefore Government decided to wait till the receipt of their report.

**A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum— Rural*) : I heard the Director say that some of the books written by the Inspector of Vernacular Schools were recommended by that officer himself. Am I right ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know on whose recommendations those books were accepted? Were they accepted on the advice or authority of some other persons also ?

**PRESIDENT** : I think these questions have been answered.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum Rural*) : The Director answered that books written by the Inspector of Vernacular Schools were recommended by him and that they were prescribed. I wish to know whether any advice was taken by the Government or the Director or whether they were prescribed solely on the opinion of the writer himself.

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : I said in answer to Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's question that the Inspector of English Schools had also recommended these books for use in English Schools.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum— Rural*) : Am I to understand that such books are prescribed only for English schools and not for Vernacular schools ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : No, one of the books was prescribed for Vernacular schools also.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Was the opinion of the Inspector of English Schools taken in regard to the suitability of these books ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Not for Vernacular schools. They were recommended for English schools by the Inspector of English Schools.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Is it the position of the Government that, when a book is recommended for being prescribed as a text-book in *English Schools*, that recommendation is considered to be enough to make it suitable for *Vernacular Schools* as well ?

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**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It depends upon the standard. The book was recommended for the Sixth Form in the English schools and the Seventh Class in the Vernacular schools.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Is there any basis for the Government's assumption that the Sixth Form and the Seventh Class are of the same standard ?

**PRESIDENT**: That does not arise.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know whether any books were prescribed that were not recommended by the Inspectors of English and Vernacular Schools ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I claim notice.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Am I to take it then that the Director or the Government had nothing to do with the prescription of these text-books except accepting the recommendation of the Inspectors ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): With regard to Malayalam books, yes. With regard to English books, the recommendation was scrutinised by the Director.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum—Rural*): With regard to other books, such as Geography, History, Arthmetic and so forth, did the Director accept the recommendations of the Inspectors ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): All books written in English are scrutinised by the Director. In regard to all books in Malayalam, the Inspectors' recommendations are accepted.

**MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Is it the position of Government that the Director is himself an authority in regard to all books in English, such as Arithmetic, Algebra, Geography ?

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN** (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Does that question arise, Sir ?

**PRESIDENT**: The question arises, but it has been answered. I think this question has been sufficiently threshed out.

*Breaches in the banks of the Killi River.*

87.* **MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum—Rural*): With reference to the recent breaches in the banks of the Killi River to the south of the Trivandrum town and in the bund between Konchiravila and the Thiruvallam road, will the Government be pleased to state ;

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to the urgent necessity of closing the breaches and strengthening the banks and the bund ; and

(*b*) what progress, if any, has been made in such work ?

**MR. L. H. JACOB** (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Restoration work has already been started and is in progress.

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